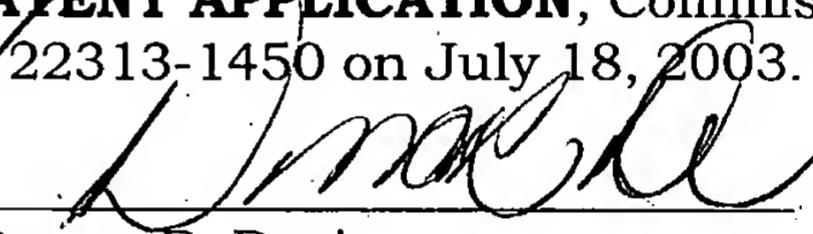


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: D. Oliver **EXAMINER:** Not Yet Assigned
U.S.S.N.: Not Yet Assigned **ART UNIT:** Not Yet Assigned
FILED: HEREWITH
TITLE: TISSUE AND MEMBRANE FIXATION APPARATUS AND METHODS
OF USE THEREOF

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," Express Mail Label No. **EV342613617US** addressed to: **MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on July 18, 2003.

By: 

Donna R. Davis

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments prior to consideration of the above-referenced application. A version of the amendments that includes markings to denote additions and deletions to the amended subject matter also is included below.

In the Claims

Please amend claims 14, 15 and 19 as follows:

Customer No.: 21874
Attorney Docket No.: 71710-56444
U.S. Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned
Filing Date: HEREWITH
Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Page 2

14. The method of claim 9, wherein the surgical fastener includes at least one positive surface feature, and wherein the fluid is in communication with at least one of the at least one positive surface feature.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the presence of the at least one positive surface feature reduces the predetermined distance by approximately 66% at the at least one positive surface feature.
19. The method of claim 9, wherein the surgical fastener is formed from a bioabsorbable material.